

REMARKS

Claims 7-10 and 12-17 are pending in this application, of which claims 7 and 12 have been amended and claims 14-17 are newly-added.

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps.

Accordingly, claim 11 has been canceled and replaced with new claim 15, and claim 12 has been amended to depend from newly-added claim 15.

Thus, the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection should be withdrawn.

Before turning to the cited references, a brief review of the claimed invention is in order.

One embodiment of the present invention is a process for electroplating a work piece in which an anode (4) in the form of a circular bar is disposed in the center axis of the work piece (1). A driving roller (2-a) abuts the outer surface of the work piece (1), rotates the work piece (1) about its center axis and provides a plating electric current to the work piece (1). A positive electrode plate is deposited outside the outer surface of the work piece. In another embodiment, at least one follower roller may be provided to abut and support the workpiece, in which either the driving roller or the follower roller may provide the plating electric current to the work piece. At least one of the driving roller and the follower roller may be provided with a spacer to set adjacent works to be spaced a distance apart from each other and treating simultaneously a plurality of said works set such that they are spaced a distance apart from each other by the spacer.

Claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,076,424 to Held (hereinafter "**Held**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Held describes electroplating the interior of a large fermentation vessel (a). Rollers (b) are provided with insulation (c) to prevent an electrical connection between the vessel (a) and the rollers (b). Electrolyte (d) is placed in the vessel (a) with an anode (e) contained therein and the vessel (a) forming a cathode (f).

Claim 7 has been amended by adding the limitation of "providing said driving roller with a spacer to set adjacent works to be spaced a distance apart from each other and treating simultaneously a plurality of said works set such that they are spaced a distance apart from each other by the spacer". This amendment is supported by the description on page 19, lines 1 to 10 of the specification and Figs. 4 and 5, and is not disclosed in **Held**.

Newly-added independent claim 15 recites that a follower roller supplies the plating electric current to said work, which is also not disclosed in **Held**. Newly-added independent claim 16 recites that at least one of the driving roller and the follower roller is provided with the spacer, and that the driving roller supplies the plating electric current to the work, which is also not disclosed in **Held**.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 9-41190A (hereinafter "**JP '190A**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

JP '190A describes a plating method in which a meshed substrate (7) acting as a cathode is arranged in a plating cell (1). A first anode (3) is arranged on the inner side of the meshed substrate (7) and a second anode (4) is located on the outer side of the meshed substrate (7).

Claim 7 has been amended by adding the limitation of "providing said driving roller with a spacer to set adjacent works to be spaced a distance apart from each other and treating simultaneously a plurality of said works set such that they are spaced a distance apart from each other by the spacer". This amendment is supported by the description on page 19, lines 1 to 10 of the specification and Figs. 4 and 5, and is not disclosed in **JP '190A**.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 99/23675 (hereinafter "**WO '675**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

WO '675, as discussed in EP 1 028 437 A1, describes a method of manufacturing a ring shaped or disc shaped bonded magnet in which the film thickness after plating of the inner diameter side is 22 μm and on the outer diameter side is 23 μm .

The Examiner indicates that **WO '675** teaches all of the limitations recited in claim 10. Applicants respectfully disagree. A ring-shaped bonded magnet in which the film thickness of a plated film formed on the outer surface is equal to or less than the film thickness of a plated film

formed on the inner surface, as recited in claim 10 of the instant application, is not described in **WO '675**.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Held** in view of JP 10-294209 (hereinafter "**JP '209**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

JP '209 describes plating a magnet (3).

Both **Held**, as noted above, and **JP '209** fail to teach, mention or suggest the limitations recited in claim 7, as amended, and newly-added claim 15, from which claims 9 and 13 respectively indirectly depend.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over **JP '190A** as applied above to claims 7, 8, 11 and 12, and further in view of **JP '209**.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Both **JP '190A** and **JP '209** fail to teach, mention or suggest the limitations recited in claim 7, as amended, as well as newly-added claim 15, from which claims 9 and 13 respectively indirectly depend. Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 7-10 and 12-17, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal